WORKS IN PROGRESS

VOLUME 15, NUMBER 4 — THURSTON COUNTY RAINBOW COALITION — AUGUST 2004

Olympia Salvage

Salvaging Old Buildings Piece by Piece

By Olympia Salvage deconstruction crew

Our mission is two fold: to benefit the environment, and to provide the community access to quality used building materials

It is Monday morning, after the sun has risen, but before it has become sticky hot, when five of us arrive at a house on Summit Lake. Each of us with a hammer, a flat bar, a screwdriver or screwgun, a three-foot pry bar and dirty jeans. This two-story, two thousand square foot house will be but a concrete pad in two weeks. Piece by piece, with our hands and tool, we will deconstruct this building. Everything possible, from the tile roof to the floor joists will be salvaged and resold to people who will put these materials to use again. Everything else, from drywall to wood scraps will be sent in forty yard containers, to a recycling center where they will be sorted and processed into new materials.

This is deconstruction. Imagine being able to fit an entire house into a curbside recycling container, and you begin to understand the scope of these projects. This is the new face of the demolition industry, reuse rather than refuse.

Who seeks out and performs such grueling yet rewarding work? Olympia Salvage does. We are Olympia's newest non-profit salvage organization. Our mission is two fold: to benefit our environment, by diverting the waste stream that is flooding our landfills while encouraging the reuse of building materials, and to benefit our community by providing access to quality used building materials while fostering an attitude of environmental consciousness. Our work consists of acquiring quality used building materials, offering them for retail sale, and educating our community. Our deconstruction crew has worked on projects as small as garages and as large as ten thousand square foot warehouses. Our experienced retail staff are actively seeking a location for our future retail space

The general work of Olympia Salvage is very similar to that of South Puget Sound Habitat for Humanity's former Sound Builder's Resource (SBR), in fact, the nine current members of Olympia Salvage were previously employed by SBR, prior to a reorganization of the company by Habitat for Humanity. We of Olympia Salvage are turning this unfortunate circumstance into positive change, by carrying on the environmental and community focused reuse industry in Olympia. Only a week and a half after SBR's reorganization, Olympia Salvage was deconstructing its first house. Instead of being run as a fundraiser for Habitat for Humanity, we are continuing our environmental and community based mission. This means continuing our deconstruction services and hopefully running the Building Materials Drop Off Site at Hawks Prairie. We are also looking forward to developing environmental education for the community. Additionally, we continue to work on building and maintaining a non-heirarchical organization, which was not possible for us while under the management of Habitat for Humanity. We believe that our work and mission are important and beneficial to our community and therefore, community support of Olympia Salvage is essential to its survival and growth.

You are excited too? You want to help build this organization and make it by and for all of us? Great! As a non-profit, we need many things, such as: additional members for our Board of Directors, volunteers, donations of materials, and word of mouth support of our future retail space and our deconstruction services. As with any non-profit, financial support is always welcome and simply shopping at our future retail space is a sign of support.

If you want to get involved, or find out more, call us at 360-352-1908, and keep your eyes open for upcoming events to benefit Olympia Salvage and our retail space grand opening.

WIP is on the Prowl for Cash

Howdy *WIP* readers and WIPsters. You're reading this prominently placed call for donations because the time has come once again when our money bags run skinny, and must be re-filled.

Here's the financial scoop: The *WIP* collective is entirely volunteer. That means every job, including writing, editing and content coordination, lay-out, distribution, advertising rep., finances, even responding to complaints, is done with no compensation other than occasional free popcorn at our monthly meetings. However, the printers apparently do not share our love of popcorn and therefore charge us $350-450 every month for their services.

WIP has experienced a bit of a boom this past year, and one aspect of that has been an increase in article submissions. This means that while we used to publish mostly 12-pagers, we have lately done lots of 16-pagers. This is wonderful for the community- more timely alternative information on local issues. But it's hard on *WIP* financially, because our ads and submissions haven't covered these larger print runs.

So here we are, calling to those of you who value *WIP* and want to keep reading lots of it. We want you to know that now is an excellent time to subscribe. If you own or work for a local business, you can benefit both your company and the paper by placing an advertisement. (There's information on how to subscribe or advertise on page 2.) Or you can send a donation to *Works In Progress* at P.O. Box 295, Olympia WA 98507.

No matter how you do it, if you love what *WIP* gives to the community, now's the time to give to WIP.

Banking on the Farm

The Farms Bank Project is Working to Educate, Inspire, and Feed Olympia

By Marco Rosaire Rossi

Perhaps it is because it is tucked away in the northern corner of the United States, or because it was settle relatively recently compared with other areas, or because of its majestic surrounding and beautiful landscape, but people in the northwest have often shared a common concern for the environment. This has been especially true for people living in population with progressive politics like Olympia, WA. Olympia has had an unique and vibrate history of ecological activism- celebrating the sustainable, the holistic, and the organic. However, despite this ecological activism, food and hunger issue have often been ignored- that is until now.

In December of 2003, the Farm Bank was established in Olympia. This non-profit organization has dedicated itself to supporting local organic farms, while promoting healthy options for low income people. "The Farm Bank Project is simply to get people into eating healthier food," Mitch Hopkins, co-director of the project said. "We educate and inspire people to take action and to preserve and support local family farms and local economics as the basis of a healthy community."

Currently, low-income people may visit the Thurston County Food Bank only twelve times a year; choices are often limited in pesticide-free and non-GMOs foods.

Since its birth, the Farm Bank has had its ups and downs, but for such a small organization it has been able to accomplish a lot in a short period of time. Already the project has given away local organic food to Safe Place, Union Gospel Mission, and has started its own food bank at the Olympia Free School. Currently the Farm Bank has over 200 supporters and contributors, an email list of over 250 people, interns from the Evergreen State College, a professional bookkeeper who works on volunteered time, and 5-10 other volunteers who help out with canvassing, gardening, and getting the word out about the project. In addition, the project has acquired around 6,500 square feet to harvest organic food with various farms in area, and has raised over $3,500.

The support the organization has may have to a lot to do with the need for it in Thurston County. According to the USDA and the Census Bureau, Washington has the 2nd worst hunger rate in the nation.

(Continued page 11)

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Mission Statement:

"Our aim is to confront injustice and encourage a participatory democracy based on economic, social, and environmental justice. Works In Progress is dedicated to providing a voice for those most affected by the exclusionary and unfair practices that seek to silence the oppressed."

Anti-Discrimination Clause:

We will collectively endeavor to be sensitive and respectful to all those oppressed in this society, and their issues. However, if and when we should make a mistake in this regard, we expect to acknowledge it and to express regret for injury or insult given.

Governing Tool:

The following statement will become part of the Editorial Policy and will be the governing tool for the Anti-Discrimination Clause: *WIP will make every effort to work with the contributor of material considered by WIP to be offensive in order to reach a mutually agreed upon resolution, but WIP reserves the right as a last resort to edit or not print submitted material.*

Back Issues:

Get your catalog of indexed WIPs below. Some back issues are available in the Timberland Library system. WIP is being archived on microfilm by the UW Library.

Works In Progress is a community newspaper sponsored by the Thurston County Rainbow Coalition. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the Rainbow Coalition or the Workers In Progress and are solely those of the authors.

Submissions:

Correspondence, articles, art, and photographs are always welcome. Please, when possible, put articles on a 3.5" IBM-compatible disk (text preferred) or via e-mail. Artwork and photos should be camera-ready/black & white.

WIP reserves the right to publish in whole or part all submissions. For editing purposes, please enclose your phone number.

Articles may be reprinted. Please cite source.

If you don't see your issue being covered in Works In Progress, it's because you aren't writing about it! (Or aren't finding someone else to cover it!)

Send submissions to Works In Progress, PO Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507-0295, <wip@olywa.net>

WORKERS IN PROGRESS

Dave Campbell	Megan Davis	Hali Panneton	Robert Ross
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Sebastian Chase	Kayden	Sylvia Smith	Tom Chenhall
Renee Cruickshank	Sandy Mayes	Pat Tassoni	David Lavender

WIP Schedule

Submission Deadline:

Friday, August 20rd

Proofreading Meeting:

Monday, August 23rd

WORKS IN PROGRESS
PO Box 295 Olympia, WA 98507
WIP@zhonka.net*www.olywa.net/wip

Advertising Info

W.I.P. ads at 705-1971

Inch Rate	$9.00
Business Card	$35.00*
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Special Non-Profit Rates

Announcements, etc.

The Landless Workers' Movement (MST) and the Struggle to Build a New Brazil

A call to participate in the NW Social Forum and mobilize around Agriculture, Food Justice and international Peasants Resistance.

Ramão Aldo da Silva

MST National Political Education Cmte.

Thursday, 5 August, 2004, 7pm

Traditions Fair Trade Café, 300 5th Ave
Downtown Olympia
Info: 360.259-1879

Brazil's Landless Workers' Movement is the largest social movement in Latin America. Since their first victory in 1985, MST land-takeovers earned land titles for 250,000 families living on more than 15 million acres of farmland. In 1999 alone, 25,099 families occupied unproductive land. The MST also battles Free Trade Agreements like the FTAA, which subsidize corporate agriculture while destroying the ability of small farmers to produce their own food.

Welfare Rights Organizing Coalition

How do I effectively talk to the media?

Find out at...

WROC Night Out

Monday, August 2nd
Potluck 5:30
First United Methodist Church
1224 Legion Way SE
Media Workshop 6-8 pm
On-site childcare provided

Monday, August 23rd

Join us at noon at Tivoli Fountain in front of the Capitol Building to deliver a ~~SLAM letter to Governor Locke and policy makers at the Department of Health~~ and Human Services. They are Suspected of Living Above the Taxpayer's Means By creating a welfare program that punishes children and keeps families in poverty.

Know Your Rights Workshop

Tuesday, August 10th 1-3 pm
Community Youth Services
711 State Avenue
Childcare provided.

We provide free Know Your Rights Workshops for parents and service providers about the rules that govern cash, food and medical assistance.

You can be your own best advocate!

Contact WROC at 352-9716 or wrocoly@wroc.org or come to a volunteer meeting Wednesday afternoons at 1:30 at our office in the Payne room of the First Christian Church 701 Franklin Street SE, Olympia WA 98501

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See this page

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☐ **WIP 10-year Retrospective Scrapbook . . . $15 each**
☐ **Catalog/Index Listing...$1; back issues...$1/each**

Support Progressive Journalism

If the corporations aren't paying for it, then you have to!

Name _____

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Send to:
WORKS IN PROGRESS
PO Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507

August 2004

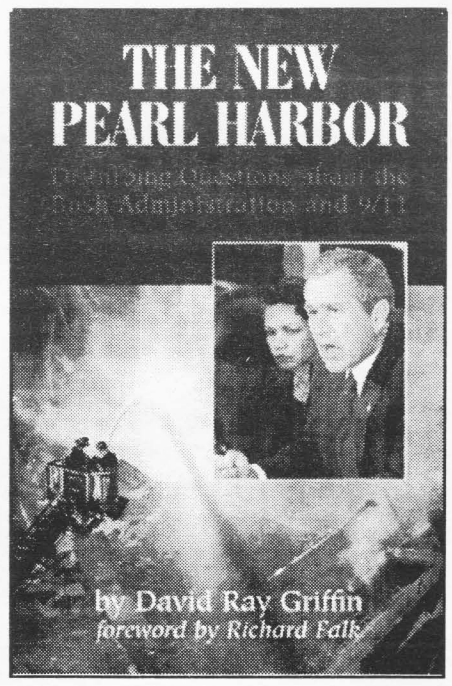
If you can't be a good example, then you'll just have to be a horrible warning.

Catherine Aird

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 1868: LA asks for help after 150 political assassinations in 60 days 2003: Dept of Labor: 470,000 gave up looking for work in July	**2** 2003: $600 million of Iraqi gold seized by US forces is actually brass 2003: Israel says it'll remove 6 settlements but not when	**3** 2003: Military won't compensate 1000s of Iraqi families for dead unless they prove negligence or wrongdoing by US soldiers	**4** 2003: Rwandan court convicts 100 of rape, torture, murder, crimes against humanity in 100-day 1994 slaughter of half-million	**5** 2003: Episcopal church elects first gay bishop 2003: WA Dept of Licensing reports 1,700 Californians move to WA each month	**6** 2003: Actor Arnold Schwarzenegger announces he's running for governor; 356 individuals have picked up candidacy papers	**7** 2003: Bomb explodes at Jordanian Embassy in Iraq killing 11 2003: Army lectures soldiers who made remarks about Rumsfeld
8 2003: Sales of Coca-Cola and Pepsi in India plunge after an environmental group claims the beverages contain pesticides	**9** 2002: Rumsfeld says economic sanctions, air patrols, and other measures have failed to contain Iraq ability to threaten other nations	**10** 2003: Britain (100) and Germany (105) reach record temperatures 2003: Olympians no longer have to sort their recycling.	**11** 2003: Study: Vietnam still contaminate by Agent Orange 2003: 50 Parisians have died of heat-related illnesses in last week	**12** 2000: GW vows better pay/housing and more respect for military 2003: Pentagon is now requiring one-year tours in Iraq	**13** 1763: Settlers attack peaceful Indians of Lancester County PA 2003: 135 candidates are certified for California recall	**14** 2003: Black out in 7 states, parts of Canada; 2003: AL Chief Justice won't remove 10 commandments from judicial building
15 2003: Former Ugandan dictator Idi Amin dies 2003: Federal judge blocks mandatory Pledge of Allegiance in Colorado	**16** 2002: Sharon aide said Israel urging US officials no to delay a military strike against Iraq 2002: Arthur Andersen loses its license in TX	**17** 2003: Reuters (Palestinian) cameraman was shot dead by US troops while he was filming near a US-run prison outside of Baghdad	**18** 2003: WA State Dental Association signs agreement w/ state to urge its members to install equipment to safely recover mercury	**19** 2003: United Nations headquarters is car bombed in Iraq 2003: Federal deficit climbed by $54.2 billion in July	**20** 2003: Olympia gas prices hit high of $1.84 2003: Supreme Court rejects appeal to keep 10 commandments in AL justice building	**21** 2003: AL associate justices order removal of 10 commandments 2003: Hamas leader Ismail Abu Shanab is assassinated by Israel
22 2003: Bush visiting the Columbia: "We've got an energy problem in America. We don't need to be breaching any damns..."	**23** 2002: Justice Dept officials claim anyone linked to terrorism anywhere in the world can be detained and held indefinitely	**24** 2003: Pentagon will build 5th camp at Guantanamo Bay to hold/interrogate detainees; increases naval base capacity to 1,100	**25** 2003: Rumsfeld says he will propose up to 40 ways to strengthen US combat power w/o increasing the number of troops	**26** 2003: Olympia approves $51,000 in legal fees to defend city against legal motions filed by Forest Glen owner Eli Moreno	**27** 2003: Internal investigation clears Det. Glenn Quantz of campaign allegations that he lied on his employment application	**28** 2003: Seattle P-I reports FBI investigating police corruption and illegal business transactions by government officials in Tacoma
29 2003: Bureau of Transportation Statistics reports for the 1st time household have more vehicles then drivers to drive them	**30** 2003: World Trade Organization agrees to allow poor countries to import cheap copies of patented medicines to fight killer diseases	**31** 2003: 2 US soldiers killed in firefight w/ suspected Taliban 2003: US workers most productive due to working more hours	John Kerry supported the removal of millions of poor Americans from welfare rolls and backed extending the death penalty. The "hero" of a war that is documented as an atrocity launched his presidential campaign in front of a moored aircraft carrier. John Pilger, *The New Statesman*			

A book review

Disturbing questions about the Bush Administration and September 11



by Charles Adler

An important book that should be read by as many people as possible, The New Pearl Harbor *by David Ray Griffin, presents evidence of the Bush government in complicity with the 9-11 attacks. The crimes of the 9-11 attacks were immediately used to achieve a mandate for the invasions of Afghanistan and Iraq, objectives with which the Bush administration came into office.*

It would be too crazy, too destructive, too hard to maintain a cover-up, too hard on the economy. However, after reading this book it is hard to dismiss the strong possibility of the administration's involvement.

David Ray Griffin, a Professor of Philosophy at the Claremont School of Theology for over 30 years, has written a dispassionate, logical, comprehensive and accessible book. Many people write off government complicity in 9-11 as a conspiracy theory, but as Richard Falk writes in the forward, the book "is a painstakingly scrupulous look at the evidence, with an accounting of the numerous discrepancies between the official account provided by the US government and the best information available." Sources include articles from the mainstream press and from abroad, other people's research, and quotes from the administration. The book also has 40 pages of notes following the main text.

The successes of the 9-11 airplane attacks suggest government participation. It is standard procedure and practice for fighter jets to intercept airliners that deviate from prescribed flight patterns and procedures, yet there were no such interceptions of the first three hijacked planes on 9-11.

The first photograph taken of the Pentagon after being hit shows a clean hole 15' wide with no abrasion to the side of the building, all of which is inconsistent with an airliner hitting the building. A roomful of air traffic controllers that saw the attacking plane agreed that it looked like a small military craft.

Many aspects of the collapse of the three World Trade towers are consistent with demolition. Seismographs 20 miles away recorded spikes of 2.1 on the Richter Scale at the very moment each of the Twin Towers started to collapse, as opposed to the moments the towers hit the ground. There was a lack of inspection of the structural steel before it was quickly shipped off to Chinese smelters. A lesser publicized third tower that collapsed, the 47 story Building 7, was not hit by a plane and had a lesser fire. Molten steel was found buried at the base of the wreckage weeks after 9-11, which suggests an energy source considerably more intense than fire.

Some of the points the book covers are prior knowledge held by different parts of the government. There were explicit warnings of an attack from a number of different countries' governments. Upon notification of the first tower being struck, the President was in no big hurry to leave the elementary school for a more secure location. The sales made just prior to 9-11 of stocks of the two airlines involved in the attacks would have alerted the CIA as a matter of course. The government concealed both the relationship of Pakistani intelligence to al-Qaeda and meetings in Washington with the chief of Pakistani intelligence during the week prior to 9-11.

Griffin does not claim to know exactly what happened that day but rather demonstrates the need for an investigation committed to examining the evidence. The 9-11 Commission has its hands tied politically and is limited in its scope to preventing another such attack. Referring to the failure of the press to present a dissenting view of 9-11, Dan Rather said, "Now it is that fear that keeps journalists from asking the toughest of the tough questions."

Griffin himself was skeptical of a conspiracy cover-up before he examined the evidence. When I have talked to friends who feel very critical of the Bush administration, I still encounter a fairly uniform resistance to the notion that the administration helped orchestrate 9-11: It would be too crazy, too destructive, too hard to maintain a cover-up, too hard on the economy. However, after reading this book it is hard to dismiss the strong possibility of the administration's involvement. It would be too crazy, too destructive, too hard to maintain a cover-up, too hard on the economy. However, after reading this book it is hard to dismiss the strong possibility of the administration's involvement. 9-11 has been pivotal to what has occurred in its aftermath; it is therefore essential that we know what - and whom – was actually behind it. If the administration was truly instrumental in such a major deception, then it is not responsible for citizens to expect them to go into the national election intending to play by the rules (or not devise some other catastrophe in order to derail due electoral process). It is too risky to just wait and hope Bush loses the presidential election. If read by enough people, The New Pearl Harbor could help make the Bush presidential campaign untenable.

Airs on TCTV throughout August

How to Reduce Jail Populations

by Glen Anderson

For a good number of years crime has been decreasing, but despite this, we're sending more and more people to jail and prison. The United States now has more than 2 million people behind bars, and we keep building more and bigger jails and prisons

Here in Thurston County, the criminal justice system consumes three-fourths of our General Funds budget. In a landslide election in May 2004 the county's voters resoundingly defeated a proposal to build a $100 million jail. Fortunately, a lot of cost-effective alternatives do exist. The Olympia FOR's August TCTV program explore some of the alternatives.

It really is possible to reduce jail populations without hurting public safety. In fact, if we reduce jail populations in the right ways, we can actually *improve* public safety by solving underlying problems and freeing the law enforcement system to focus on the *real* safety issues instead of bogging down with people who could be handled in ways other than jail.

It's important to recognize that a crowded jail is not primarily a "jail" issue, but rather a criminal justice *systems* issue. The jail needs to accept whoever arrives, so – as Morris Thigpen, Director of the National Institute of Corrections has written – if a jail is crowded, this indicates the need for "a thorough examination of criminal justice policies, procedures, and practices." We need to analyze and reform the systems that contribute, interact and offer relief. These include variables related to laws, law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, community resources, pretrial and post-conviction services, systemic inefficiencies, and other factors.

...if we reduce jail populations in the right ways, we can actually* improve *public safety by solving underlying problems and freeing the law enforcement system to focus on the* real *safety issues....

We need to analyze carefully how the system works, where the inefficiencies are, what "best practices" could be implemented, and make a wide range of reforms throughout the entire system.

Smart analyses and effective alternatives can significantly reduce jail populations. Drug Court, an analogous Mental Health Court (which does not yet exist in our county), Restorative Justice, Community Accountability Boards, solutions for homeless persons, more effective probation, a wide range of crime prevention programs, and a great many other alternatives have been *proven* cost-effective in many places throughout the U.S. and Canada. These alternatives are not "Pollyanna" or "do-gooder" approaches, and they're not "soft on crime." They are very practical!

The Olympia Fellowship of Reconciliation's August 2004 TCTV program will analyze the problem and propose solutions. For more than 17 years the Olympia FOR has produced one-hour TV programs on issues related to peace, social justice, economics, the environment, and nonviolence. The program airs on Thurston Community Television (TCTV) for Thurston County's cable TV subscribers (channel 22 or 29, depending on your neighborhood). Each program airs every Monday at 1:30 p.m. and every Thursday at 9:00 p.m. for a full month.

The program about reducing jail populations will feature four guests: Marco Rosaire Rossi, a local citizen who has studied criminal justice issues extensively; Bill Mandeville, a King County human services planner; Mike Fenton, Probation Manager for Thurston Juvenile Court; and Evan Ferber, Executive Director of the Dispute Resolution Center of Thurston County.

For more information about the TV program and the jail population issue, contact Glen Anderson, 491-9093, glen@olywa.net.

Restorative Justice

An Important Option For Thurston County

By Marco Rossi

On May 18th, citizens in Thurston County overwhelmingly voted "no" on the proposal to build a $104 million dollar Regional Justice Center, despite the cries from some about overcrowding concerns in the current jail. Shortly after this vote, officials in the county met and concluded that the proposal didn't fail because of what it was, but because of how it was expressed to the public.[1] Needless to say, despite community opposition and the fact that the majority of voters in the county oppose a new Regional Justice Center, officials in the county continue to pursue the project.

Jail crowding, the growing cost of incarceration, and concerns for public safety are major issues for any community to face. However, it is clear even by moderate standards that the continual construction of jails is not stopping overcrowding, saving money, or creating safer communities- if anything, it appears to be making it worse.[2] This dire situation presents a real need not only think more creatively about present systems but also to think "outside the box" and examine different paradigms for dealing with criminal behavior. One such paradigm has been shown to be extremely successful in meeting the objectives stated above, and increasing democratic control to address the needs of victims and offenders – that paradigm is restorative justice.

Restorative justice has played a small but important role in Thurston County. The majority of restorative justice programs have been isolated in the juvenile courts with judges ordering offenders of less-serious crimes to Victim-Offender Mediations organized by the Dispute Resolution Center. However, if such programs were expanded, and options were made available to adults and those who have committed more serious crimes, then restorative justice could become a viable solution to Thurston County criminal justice problems. It could also have an important civic effect, transforming residents of Thurston County from their current roles of victims, offenders, and authorities over criminal matters into citizens in a genuine community of life.

Contemporary punitive systems of criminal justice understand crime not as a violation of a person's well being but as an injury to the abstract institution of the State. In other words, the questions asked in conventional criminal justice are "what law has been broken, who has broken it, and what do they deserve?" In contrast, restorative justice focus not on the State, but those involved in the crime and their surrounding communities of care. The questions that restorative justice asks are "who is experiencing hurt, what are the needs of these people, and what systems of accountability and responsibility can be designed to met those needs?"

Another way to explain the contrast is how contemporary criminal justice and restorative view the concept of law. Contemporary criminal justice holds the view that law is a set of rules or edicts by the State, which must be obeyed to maintain social order regardless of their rationality or effect. Restorative justice, on the other hand, understands law as a set of principles that guide human action but also adapts and changes with situations. As Ada Pecos Melton, President of the American Indian Development Association explains, "the concept of law as a way of life makes law a living concept that one comes to know and understand through experience." This concept of law, as many indigenous people have known for those of years, has an affect on producing group harmony rather than conformity. "Law, as life," Melton continues, "is linked to the elaborate relationships in many tribal communities. In some tribes it is exemplified by tribal divisions that represent legal systems prescribing the individual and kin relationships of members and the responsibilities individual and group members have to one another and to the community."[3]

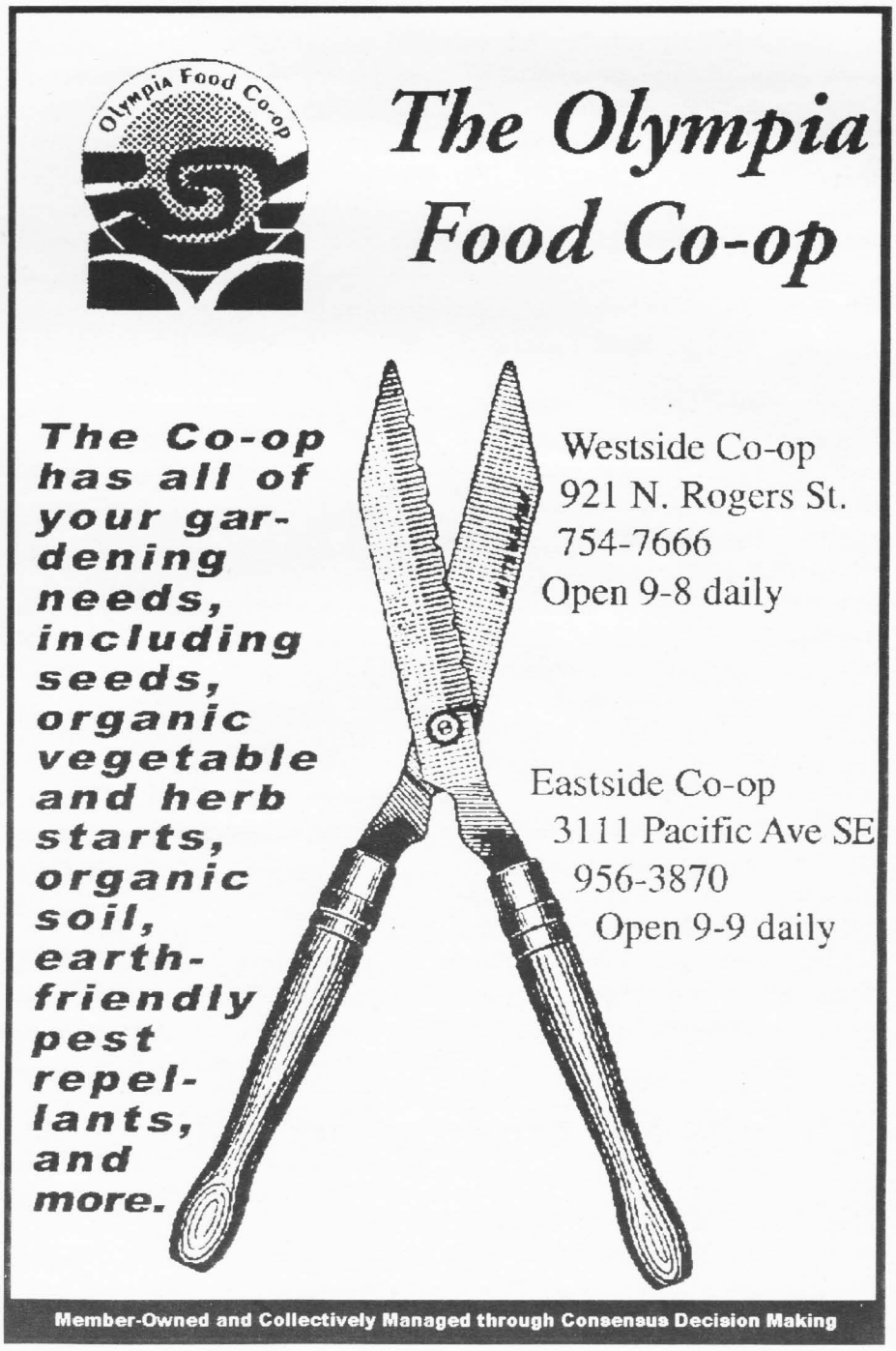
Underlining philosophy of restorative justice is a belief that if a high quality of connection can be produced between individuals, humans will be more aware of their own needs and the needs of others.

Underlining the philosophy of restorative justice is a belief that if a high quality of connection can be produced between individuals, then humans will naturally be more aware of their own needs and the needs of others. There is a growing body of scientific research backing up this belief. Research done on the Wagga Wagga programs in Australia found that only 20% of the individuals who went through restorative justice programs re-offended, compared to 48% percent re-offending in the regular court system. In Singapore the statistics are even more astonishing. In the conventional court system had a 38% re-offending rate, while the restorative justice programs had a 2% re-offending rate.[4] In the United States, 63% of all individuals who enter jails will return in the next five years. The constant recidivism of prisoners has become a huge fiscal and public safety issue.[5] Considering the data, it would make rational sense to adopt programs that dealt with these important concerns more effectively.

In addition, there has been much research done to further prove that empathy and compassionate connections are possible if the proper setting is established. A study done by Paul McCold and Ted Wachtel found that there is a strong relationship between an offender's sense of fairness and a victim's satisfaction with the results of a restorative justice process. Also, their research has shown that the more fully restorative an approach appears to be and the more the approach seeks to involve the input of victims, offenders, the surrounding community, the more victims and offenders see the process as just and are happy with the results.[6]

As mentioned above, Thurston County has participated in restorative justice programs through the juvenile courts, but to have a significant effect on jail overcrowding it is necessary to break these programs out of the isolation of the juvenile system. This is often difficult. There is a perception by some that because restorative justice seeks to restore peace rather than punish it is a process that is "soft on crime"- thus more fit for children who are more innocent and impressionable than adults. However, an examination at the restorative justice institutions and practices around the globe reveals a variety of instances when restorative justice has been used for the most serious crimes- including rape and murder. Dr. Marshall Rosenberg, founder of the Center for Non-Violent Communication has described instances where he has mediated forms of restorative justice with survivors of rape and their assailants.[7] In Monroe, Washington, the Freedom Project, a committee also from the Center for Non-Violent Communication, has reported great success in developing empathetic healing with offenders of sexual violence. In addition, Palestinians have been practicing restorative justice for crimes such as murder for thousands of years. The ancient institution of the Sulha, which still exist in Galilee today, is structured around a group of peacemakers who "take from the good man and give to the bad man" in order to negotiate compensation between families and restore social harmony. At the end of the process both victims and offender and their families sit together and celebrate their reconciliation with a meal.[8] These occurrences may be hard for more American to believe, but for thousands of years compensation for crime rather than punishment was the norm with most communities. It has been just over 200 years that such institutions as the jail and the prison have become cornerstones of our criminal justice system.

However, modern social science is showing again and again that perpetual incarceration cannot solve all of societies' social ills. This important lesson is the one citizens of Thurston County must learn if they are to move forward in the matter of criminal justice in a way that affirms life rather than further alienating it. It has been proposed that officials in Thurston County may try to resell the Regional Justice Center to the public in the fall and build the 650-bed (eventually 1,215-bed) facility with an increase in sales taxes. Again, considering the high cost and the likelihood that this construction will not reduce overcrowding or increase public safety, it would be wise to vote down this proposal. Instead of always building more room to incarcerate people, lets seek out ways to fund the restoration of peace in our community. The project of restoration rather than incarceration, may be the only way citizens in Thurston County and citizens of the world with able to deal with today's harsh realities, and transform the present social crises into a prosperous tomorrow.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The Co-op has all of your gardening needs, including seeds, organic vegetable and herb starts, organic soil, earth-friendly pest repellants, and more.
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921 N. Rogers St.
754-7666
Open 9-8 daily
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3111 Pacific Ave SE
956-3870
Open 9-9 daily
Member-Owned and Collectively Managed through Consensus Decision Making

Security Wall is Illegal

Thank You, International Court of Justice

by Gila Svirsky

10 Jul 2004 — In a carefully reasoned but unequivocal decision, the International Court of Justice in the Hague did the expected: It found that Israel's construction of its security wall inside Palestinian territory is illegal according to international law.

As an Israeli deeply concerned about the security of my country, and a Jew deeply concerned about the moral implications of building this barrier, I applaud this decision.

Israel's security claims in favor of the wall are seriously flawed: As it is now being constructed, the wall does not follow the 1967 border, but rather reaches deep into Palestinian land, a route that will ultimately leave hundreds of thousands of Palestinians on the Israeli side. How will this prevent Palestinian suicide bombers from entering Israel?

On humanitarian grounds, the wall is unconscionable. It prevents Palestinian access to farmland, schools, hospitals and jobs. Picture your children having to wait at the wall twice a day for soldiers to show up and unlock the gate, allowing them to get to and from school. Picture the farmer who made a living from his olive trees, which are now inaccessible or have been felled to make way for construction. Imagine that you suddenly need to see a doctor, but have no permit to get through. Imagine that you simply want to visit your elderly mother, but the wall now comes between you. According to B'Tselem, the Israeli human rights organization, when the wall is complete, some 38% of Palestinians will find their lives disrupted and their livelihoods discontinued.

The presence of the wall is not only cruel to Palestinians; it will ultimately harm Israeli security as well, as it intensifies the bitterness and hatred directed toward us. Is this the security that the wall will provide?

Unlike Palestinians who can hardly avoid it, most Israelis have never even seen the wall; it is built inside Palestinian territory, where only Israeli settlers (and the soldiers sent to protect them) now venture. If other Israelis saw it, I hope they would be shocked. In several places, the wall does not simply wend through Palestinian towns, it actually surrounds them entirely, penning the residents inside - their right to enter or leave left to the whim of young soldiers guarding the gate.

In these localities, civilian populations are now entirely encircled by a 30-foot-high, gray concrete battlement interrupted only by watchtowers from where soldiers train binoculars and automatic rifles on the residents below. Lights mounted on the wall shine down into the streets, making constant surveillance that much easier. As a Jew whose ancestors were confined to ghettoes during anti-Semitic periods of history, I find this horrifying. Will keeping 100,000 Palestinians penned in ghettoes and enclaves serve the security needs of Israel? Did forcing Jews into the ghettoes of Europe serve the security needs of those countries?

In several places, the wall does not simply wend through Palestinian towns, it actually surrounds them, penning the residents inside - their right to enter or leave left to the whim of young soldiers guarding the gate.

Last week, the Israeli Supreme Court acknowledged the grave violations of Palestinian human rights resulting from the wall, and ordered the army to reroute it in specific locations. While our government is hoping that this Israeli court ruling will make it possible for Israel to ignore the Hague tribunal - on the grounds that "the wall is an internal security matter that we are dealing with" - most Israeli peace activists do not agree. Construction of the wall within Occupied Territory - meaning on somebody else's property - is a violation of basic rights, no matter how you look at it. And claims that the wall provides security are undercut by the large numbers of Palestinians who will remain on the "Israeli" side.

Ultimately, the best way for my country to achieve security is to negotiate peace with the Palestinians, and sufficiently improve the lives on both sides so that there is a vested interest in maintaining the peace. The wall, however, does just the opposite. As a result, it is not only bad for Palestine, but bad for Israel too.

A few days ago, I watched an old Palestinian woman surveying with dismay her family's olive trees that the army had cut down, shaving a swath on which the wall will rise. "Those stupid people," she said, careful not to name them, "If not for their stupidity, we could have lived in peace with each other."

Gila Svirsky is a peace and human rights activist in Jerusalem.

American-style

Democracy with a Medusa's face

by Alevtina Reaby

While our president passionately peddles his particular vision for the entire Mideast, one might wonder what exactly that vision is? According to Maura Reynolds' article in the Tacoma News Tribune (June 30, 2004), "[A] central theme [of President Bush's] meetings with Turkish, EU and NATO leaders was that democracy and Islam are not incompatible." The obvious inference is that American-style democracy is the path that these Islamic countries should espouse. This poses another obvious question: do we here in the United States, an alleged stronghold of the democratic mode of government, in fact have this democracy in place?

On July 14th, 2004, the House of Representatives held debate about House Resolution 713, "which deplores the International Court of Justice advisory opinion finding that the Wall Israel is building in the West Bank is illegal." This debate demonstrates that behind a pretense of liberty and equality the U.S. democracy hides a far more tyrannical face. Instead of supporting the results of a democratic deliberation – which presupposes the right to dissent and criticize— the House of Representatives seriously considered threatening any country with a dissenting opinion by promising "a strongly negative impact on their relationship with the people and government of the United States."

Note the ridiculous suggestion that all people of the U.S. will turn against anyone who ventures to raise questions about the moral implications of the construction of the wall between Palestine – or what's left of it – and Israel. This verbal ineptness aside, one has a feeling that this U.S. style of democracy threatens not only the international community, but our own political elites as well. Indeed, if the resolution raised the possibility of heavy consequences to anyone abroad who either opposed or raised questions about the legitimacy of the wall, would not it also mean that our representatives in government are obliged to sign on to the main premises of this resolution? The resulting vote count on HR 713 was "361 yeas, 45 nays, 13 presents, 14 not voting." According to the courageous voice of Jim McDermott (D-WA), "it is a resolution that will not promote peace, or dialogue, in the region." On the contrary, "it is a resolution that risks undermining the already painfully difficult process – and the hope – of achieving peace." However, the resolution implies that no questions should be raised about its undermining the peace process. It seems that to become a myrmidon and follow-my-leader are the only options our democracy permits.

...behind a pretense of liberty and equality the U.S. democracy hides a far more tyrannical face. Instead of supporting the results of a democratic deliberation, the House of Representatives seriously considered threatening any country with a dissenting opinion...

The Iron Curtain between the former USSR and the U.S.A. fell in 1991, but it seems that the democratic hand of our country since then is getting heavier and heavier. Could our style of democracy be called a democracy with an iron fist? Or rather is it a democracy with an iron mask, hidden under the veil of spurious freedom and the right to self-expression, critique and dissenting opinion? Perhaps a truer description of our version of democracy is that it hides the mask of Medusa, which threatens to turn into stone anyone courageous enough to confront its ruthless face. "You are either with us or against us." Thus spake our president. Don't you feel the presence of a Nietzschian superman in the struggle for greatness? Ironically, the "perils" of linear rhetoric could definitely lead us to the circles of Dante's Inferno, back in time to one of Bush's political antecedents, Vladimir Lenin, who said, "Who is not with us, is against us." And, by golly, if you are against us, you will feel the onus of "a strongly negative impact" right away. Our U.S. democracy can guarantee it, international laws notwithstanding. After all, they are irrelevant.

Thanks for Community Support

The family of Michael David Krise would like to thank the community for its show of support following last month's WIP article, "Attacking Native Sovereignty: Michael David Krise arrested for harvesting geoducks".

(And WIP would like to apologize to David for the misspelling of his name.)

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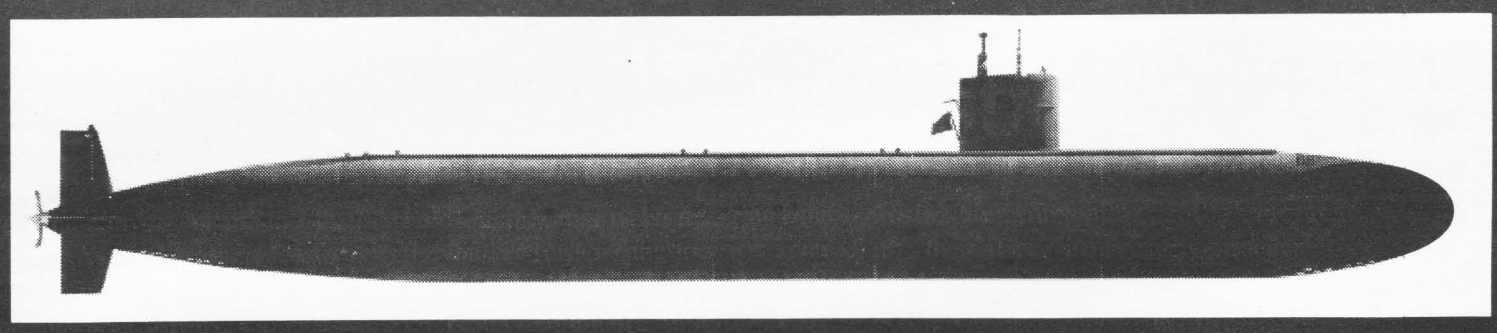

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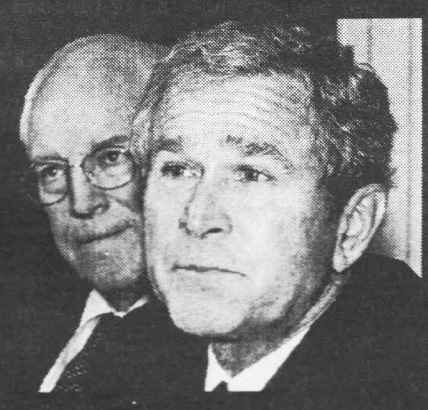

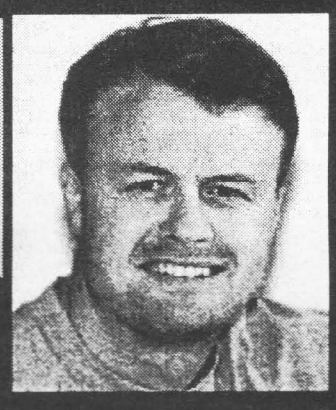

And then there are good reasons.

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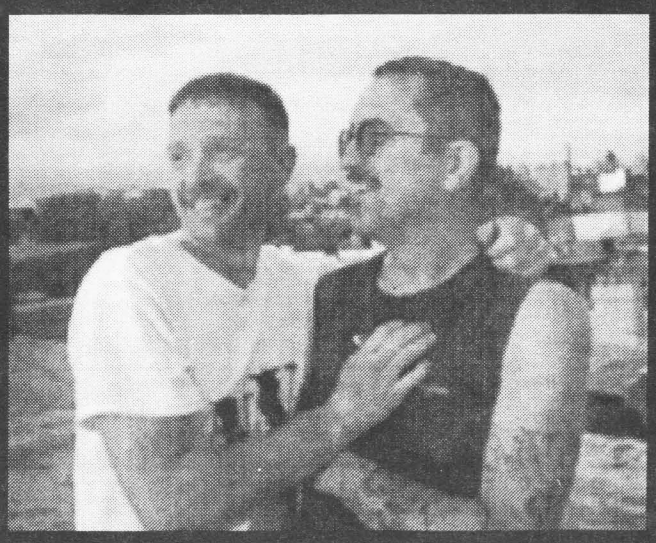

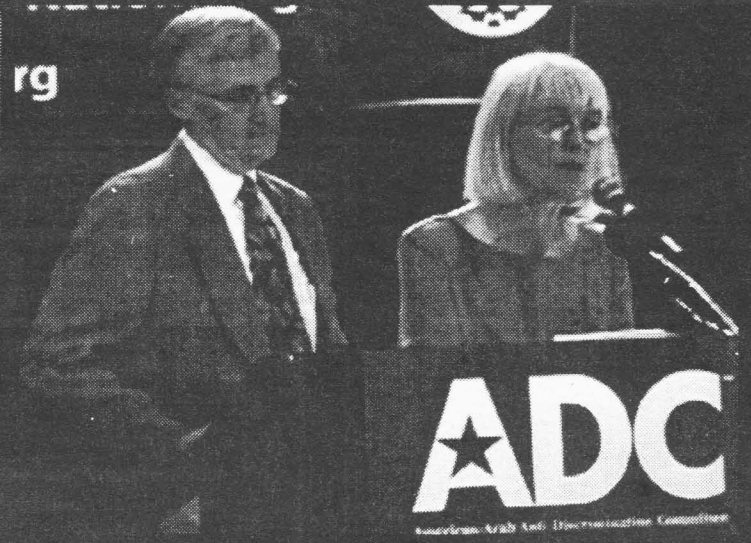

Patriot Act Watch

Adam Smith Votes Against Limiting Patriot Act Powers – Later Admits Mistake

By Howard Rosenfeld

An amendment to a $40 billion spending bill that would have barred the federal government from demanding library records, reading lists, book customer lists and other material in terrorism and intelligence investigations, failed on July 7th, after the Republican-controlled house voted to keep the voting open 23 extra minutes so enough members could be swayed to kill the amendment. The vote resulted in a 210-210 deadlock, and defeat for the bill, under House rules. The Sanders amendment, as it's being referred to, was essentially a referendum on the powers of the Patriot Act and illustrated the opposition to the anti-terrorism legislation which was passed quickly after the terrorist attacks on New York and Washington on 9-11-2001.

Interestingly, Democrat Adam Smith of Tacoma, Washington was one of only 4 Democrats who voted to kill the amendment and later, admitted he made a mistake in casting his 'No' vote. The Monday following the vote, Smith arranged a badly publicized phone conference with anyone upset with his vote and conceded that he would have voted differently if he had known better. Jerry Sheehan, Legislative Director for the Washington State Chapter of the ACLU, is reported to have corrected Smith's understanding of section 215 during the conference call, regarding whether "probably cause" is needed to conduct a search of public library records.

"You are flat-out incorrect. We are absolutely, utterly convinced as we read the text that there is not the slightest requirement for a warrant under section 215, records requests, and there is certainly not - it's an order, that the government asks of the court, and that is an order the court must issue, if the government is asking for it (under this law.) There is nothing about individualized suspicion about anyone, it is just that if the government is doing an investigation that it asserts is related to terrorism." Sheehans quote is attributed to a recent post to the Seattle Independent Media Center (SIMC) website.

Smith claims the Congressional Research Service (CRS) told him probably cause was required but a response to the SIMC post claims that the CRS report from January 2004 "...states clearly that only a "simple assertion" and not probable cause is required." You can read the article about Smith's response and a good response to that story here: http://www.seattle.indymedia.org/en/2004/07/241312.shtml

Passage of resolutions in support of civil liberties and against the Patriot Act continue to get passed all around the country with the number now totaling 338 cities and counties and four states (as of 7/28/2004). Tumwater, WA is the most recent community in Washington state to pass a resolution. In this writers opinion, the Tumwater resolution (R2004-014) is a much better resolution than Olympia's in that it doesn't cozy up to the Bush administration. City officials in Tumwater should be commended for having the courage to pass such a forceful resolution on behalf of its residents. Locally, people wanting to work on getting the city of Lacey to pass a resolution can contact the Thurston County Chapter of the ACLU at 456-7180. Other cities of note to pass resolutions this past month include Des Moines, Iowa, Pasadena, California, Placer County, California (near Sacramento), and Lexington-Fayette County, Kentucky.

In an incident not directly related to the Patriot Act but instead racial profiling and infringements on civil liberties, a photographer was recently harassed by law enforcement officials after taking pictures at the Ballard Locks in Seattle. This from the ACLU-WA website:

"The ACLU-WA is assisting Ian Spiers, a biracial community college student who was questioned and detained by local police and a Homeland Security agent for taking photographs at the Ballard Locks. The ACLU is conducting an investigation into the incident and has written the federal government to seek assurances that Spiers won't be harassed at the Locks again." (http://www.aclu-wa.org/News-Photo.html)

In a creative reaction to this incident, local photographers have organized a photography workshop at the Ballard Locks set for 1pm on August 1st. Organizers figure the police won't have the audacity to arrest or harass a huge crowd of people taking pictures or for that matter, white people taking pictures. One poster to blueneedle.com claims there were other photographers present when Spiers was approached by the officers who were Caucasian. Why they weren't also questioned seems like a clear case of racial profiling to me. Spiers has his own blog at http://www.brownequalsterrorist.com/

The fiasco with the Critical Arts Ensemble in Syracuse took a bizarre turn. Instead of facing bioterrorism charges related to an art exhibit that uses science to critique biotechnology, Steven Kurtz and Robert Ferrell are now facing charges of mail and wire fraud which each potentially carry a 20-year sentence.

"The defendants were charged not with bioterrorism, the investigative reason that was stated on the original FBI subpoenas, but with a glorified version of "petty larceny," in the words of Kurtz attorney Paul Cambria. The laws under which the indictments were obtained are normally used against those defrauding others of money or property, as in telemarketing schemes. Historically, these laws have been used when the government could not prove other criminal charges." (See http://www.caedefensefund.org/ for background and full text of indictment)

Donald A. Henderson, Dean Emeritus of the Johns Hopkins University School of Hygiene and Public Health and resident scholar at the Center for Biosecurity of the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center said, "Based on what I have read and understand, Professor Kurtz has been working with totally innocuous organisms... to discuss something of the risks and threats of biological weapons—more power to him, as those of us in this field are likewise concerned about their potential use and the threat of bioterrorism." Henderson was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Bush for his work in heading up the World Health Organization smallpox eradication program and was appointed by the Bush administration to chair the National Advisory Council on Public Preparedness. Henderson noted that the organisms involved in this case—Serratia marcescens and Bacillus atrophaeus—do not appear on lists of substances that could be used in biological terrorism.

The Bill of Rights Defense Committee reports . . . "Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge misled the public last Wednesday [July 14] when he informed the press that the $102 million CAPPS II program could be considered dead. On Friday [July 16], the Washington Post reported that the program has simply been postponed until after the election due to privacy concerns and other controversial program elements."

In this writers opinion, the Tumwater resolution (R2004-014) is a much better resolution than Olympia's in that it doesn't cozy up to the Bush administration.

Cheney Lies About Medical Malpractice Claims Impact On Health Care Costs

WASHINGTON - July 20 - The Foundation for Taxpayer and Consumer Rights today said Vice President Dick Cheney is lying to the American public by claiming that capping what juries can give to innocent victims of medical malpractice will lower health insurance premiums.

"America spends more on dog and cat food each year than all medical malpractice payouts combined," said FTCR president Jamie Court, author of Corporateering: How Corporate Power Steals Your Personal Freedom And What You Can Do About It (Tarcher/Penguin) "Malpractice costs are a fraction of 1 percent of all health-care costs. By contrast, prescription drugs are 16 percent of health costs. If Mr. Cheney and the Bush Administration wanted to lower health care costs, they would have permitted the government to bulk purchase prescription drugs for Medicare recipients. Limiting what innocent victims collect from wrongdoers cannot have an impact on health care premiums. Only curbing the greed of the insurance and pharmaceutical industries can make a real difference, but those industries are among biggest campaign donors on the hill."

FTCR has dedicated a resource page to correcting myths about the medical malpractice crisis that can be viewed at http://www.consumerwatchdog.org/healthcare/medmal.php

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Campaign "Buzz" Distractions

Organizing for Peace & Justice During an Election Year

by Glen Anderson

Show biz or substance?

Regardless of who ends up being elected, the electoral process itself can distract activists from making progress on the real issues. The electoral game easily grabs our attention and can become an end in itself rather than a means to our *real* ends – making public policy flow from our deepest values of peace and social justice.

Especially in 2003 and 2004 we've seen attention, effort and money diverted from substantive issues to the game of presidential politics. The "anybody but Bush" mantra ignores that both major political parties support a horribly violent foreign policy and refuse to address important social and economic justice issues.

After the Cold War ended, Democrat Clinton ignored the opportunity to overhaul our foreign policy. For eight years Democrat Clinton kept the US at war against Iraq and kept Star Wars alive. Democrat Clinton supported NAFTA and the WTO, expanded the federal death penalty, abolished the welfare safety net, and supported the anti-gay Defense of Marriage Act. Most of the people opposing Bush now were silent for eight years while Clinton laid the foundation for Bush's policies.

The US's two biggest political parties (and major news media, corrupt campaign financing methods, restrictions on third parties, etc.) maintain the facade that we have free elections, but – like giant corporations that share a duopoly over a market – they share a comfortable symbiotic relationship that avoids meaningful political change. These parties don't discuss issues honestly, but cynically exploit them for partisan ends.

In such a political climate, we don't get *real* choices because candidates and parties don't talk about *real* issues. We won't make progress in a political system that is structured toward conservatism and middle-of-the-roadism. We won't make progress by casting our lot with moderate candidates running as "the lesser of two evils."

This same pattern recurs every four years, and it persists because voters focus on candidates more than issues. If we want to make progress on the issues, we have to raise the issues proactively and organize on them explicitly. If the public demands a peaceful foreign policy and accepts nothing less, politicians will adopt those policies. When the people lead, the "leaders" will have to follow.

Build grassroots movement

Our vision of political change is more profound than partisan. While millions of progressives seek salvation by defeating Bush on November 2, we must change the political culture in more radical ways.

We can't just replace one politician with another. We must change the *political climate*. This requires not just an electoral campaign, but society-wide consciousness raising and an entire political change *movement*.

Gandhi and King did not run for office. They promoted nonviolent revolutions from the grassroots up.

The most important positive changes in the US (women's right to vote, the labor movement, the Civil Rights movement, environmentalism, etc.) have arisen through *grassroots organizing* – NOT through electing this or that candidate.

Certainly we should vote and urge other people to vote. But please don't let the electoral campaign season distract us from our *real* organizing at a more profound level. We practice democracy by *what we do every day* to build strong grassroots movements. Voting takes just a few minutes a few times a year. Let's spend the other 99.999% of our time organizing on the issues and building a strong progressive movement!

Electoral campaign "buzz" distracts attention from the issues. News coverage that treats an election as a horse race with numbers and strategies displaces consideration of the issues that are really at stake. Unless we citizens make the issues the election year's centerpiece, the politicians and news media will settle for trivial sideshows. Four years ago the media talked endlessly about Gore appearing "stiff" and changing to earth-tone clothing. During a recent campaign the media focused on which candidate for First Lady makes better cookies. The media can get away with this because we don't force them to cover the issues.

Don't we need to defeat bad politicians? Yes, but there are right ways and wrong ways to do that. Instead of focusing on personalities, let's raise the issues so clearly that people will make informed choices. Then when bad politicians are defeated, we'll *also* have a strong mandate for replacing bad policies with good ones.

For example, unless we challenge the premises underlying the so-called "War on Terror," we'll just end up with a different president waging it. Unless we challenge dominance of global capitalism, we'll just get a different CEO in the White House.

On the other hand, strong grassroots organizing for peace, economic justice, human rights, the environment, universal health care, and other issues would change our nation's overall political climate and culture! This would let us make strong demands on politicians of all parties and at all levels. Issue-based organizing would make electoral changes in November *and* establish grassroots movements that will hold the victors accountable throughout their terms. It would also lay a foundation for other political organizing over the long haul, including third parties.

Reach out to others

Most people tend to discuss politics only with other people who already agree with them. Until we reach out and talk with people who are *different* from ourselves, we're not really building our movements. We need to find people who can become allies on an issue-by-issue basis.

People who think they're conservative actually agree with progressive positions on many issues. For example, couldn't fiscal conservatives oppose massive military spending and unjustified tax breaks? Couldn't the conservatives who oppose big government object to the Patriot Act's intrusiveness? Couldn't traditionalists who value honesty oppose a war rooted in lies?

How could we help ordinary people see that their deepest values are served better by progressive and peace-oriented candidates who are strong on real issues than by glib politicians with vague, pious platitudes – or by politicians who side with the elites against the public interest?

Re-frame the issues

After the September 11 attacks Bush promoted the notion of a "War on Terrorism," which the news media and politicians of both parties accepted at face value. Framing the problem as a "war" has sent us down a road of endless military spending, governmental abuse of our freedom, and escalating global violence.

As long as we allow the concept of the "War on Terrorism" to persist, we lock ourselves into pretty much the same way of doing things – pretty much the same foreign policy – no matter who is in the White House or the Capitol Building.

We need to debunk the concept of the "War on Terrorism" in order to change the policies that flow from that misguided concept. We need to re-frame the issues of violence and security so we can help the public understand the real problems and work for real solutions. This is *not* a partisan matter. Politicians won't lead the way toward peace. Only *we* can do that.

This is only one example. We need to organize from the grassroots up on and re-frame many other issues related to peace, social and economic justice, the environment, and so forth.

It's not too late. Election campaign seasons are volatile. We can make that volatility work for us by lighting fires under certain issues now – and forcing politicians to deal with them now.

Let's strategize boldly.

Let's seize the initiative, proactively *create* news, and place hot issues squarely on the public agenda.

Let's re-frame issues and change the terms of the debate.

Let's create new demands and new expectations.

Let's reach out to the public, not just to each other.

Let's network with strategic allies and tactical allies.

Let's win in more profound ways!

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Anybody but Bush

With Kerry at the Helm, the Left might Focus on the Real Issues Again

by Naomi Klein

Last month, I reluctantly joined the Anybody But Bush camp. It was "Bush in a Box" that finally got me, a gag gift my brother gave my father on his 66th birthday. Bush in a Box is a cardboard cut-out of President 43 with a set of adhesive speech balloons featuring the usual tired Bushisms: "Is our children learning?" "They misunderestimated me" - standard-issue Bush-bashing schlock, on sale at Wal-Mart, made in Malaysia.

Yet Bush in a Box filled me with despair. It's not that the president is dumb, which I already knew, it's that he makes us dumb. Don't get me wrong: my brother is an exceptionally bright guy; he heads a think-tank that publishes weighty policy papers on the failings of export-oriented resource extraction and the false savings of cuts to welfare. Whenever I have a question involving interest rates or currency boards, he's my first call. But Bush in a Box pretty much summarizes the level of analysis coming from the left these days. You know the line: The White House has been hijacked by a shady gang of zealots who are either insane or stupid or both. Vote Kerry and return the country to sanity.

But the zealots in Bush's White House are neither insane nor stupid nor particularly shady. Rather, they openly serve the interests of the corporations that put them in office with bloody-minded efficiency. Their boldness stems not from the fact that they are a new breed of zealot but that the old breed finds itself in a newly unconstrained political climate.

We know this, yet there is something about George Bush's combination of ignorance, piety and swagger that triggers a condition in progressives I've come to think of as Bush Blindness. When it strikes, it causes us to lose sight of everything we know about politics, economics and history and to focus exclusively on the admittedly odd personalities of the people in the White House. Other side-effects include delighting in psychologists' diagnoses of Bush's warped relationship with his father and brisk sales of Bush "dum gum" - $1.25.

This madness has to stop, and the fastest way of doing that is to elect John Kerry, not because he will be different but because in most key areas - Iraq, the "war on drugs", Israel/Palestine, free trade, corporate taxes - he will be just as bad. The main difference will be that as Kerry pursues these brutal policies, he will come off as intelligent, sane and blissfully dull. That's why I've joined the Anybody But Bush camp: only with a bore such as Kerry at the helm will we finally be able to put an end to the presidential pathologizing and focus on the issues again.

Of course, most progressives are already solidly in the Anybody But Bush camp, convinced that now is not the time to point out the similarities between the two corporate-controlled parties. I disagree. We need to face up to those disappointing similarities, and then we need to ask ourselves whether we have a better chance of fighting a corporate agenda pushed by Kerry or by Bush.

That's why I've joined the Anybody But Bush camp: only with a bore such as Kerry at the helm will we finally be able to put an end to the presidential pathologizing and focus on the issues again.

I have no illusions that the left will have "access" to a Kerry/Edwards White House. But it's worth remembering that it was under Bill Clinton that the progressive movements in the west began to turn our attention to systems again: corporate globalization, even - gasp - capitalism and colonialism. We began to understand modern empire not as the purview of a single nation, no matter how powerful, but a global system of interlocking states, international institutions and

corporations, an understanding that allowed us to build global networks in response, from the World Social Forum to Indymedia. Innocuous leaders who spout liberal platitudes while slashing welfare and privatizing the planet push us to better identify those systems and to build movements agile and intelligent enough to confront them. With Mr Dum Gum out of the White House, progressives will have to get smart again, and that can only be good.

Some argue that Bush's extremism actually has a progressive effect because it unites the world against the US empire. But a world united against the United States isn't necessarily united against imperialism. Despite their rhetoric, France and Russia opposed the invasion of Iraq because it threatened their own plans to control Iraq's oil. With Kerry in power, European leaders will no longer be able to hide their imperial designs behind easy Bush-bashing, a development already forecast in Kerry's odious Iraq policy. Kerry argues that we need to give "our friends and allies ... a meaningful voice and role in Iraqi affairs", including "fair access to the multibillion-dollar reconstruction contracts. It also means letting them be a part of putting Iraq's profitable oil industry back together."

Yes, that's right: Iraq's problems will

(Continued on next page.)

But Has Johnnie Been Good?

by Greg Palast

The millionaires are dancing now. The balloons are falling on John Kerry, John Edwards and their nuclear families.

They're playing "Johnnie B. Goode" over the loudspeakers. Democrats are hopping up and down like JFK never went to Dallas; like Bill Clinton didn't blow it for us; like there's a chance to bring the boys home alive; like America can crawl out of Dick Cheney's bunker and look at the sun again.

No questions asked: you just closed your eyes and voted for the lie. I know it, and you sure as hell know it.

But has Johnnie Kerry been good so far?

He told us tonight about some poor bastard in Ohio whose job evaporated when his company unbolted the equipment and sent it south. Hey, Johnnie, didn't you vote for NAFTA?

I applauded when he said the White House should stop treating teachers and school kids like fugitives from justice and help them out. But, Johnnie, didn't you vote for George Bush's "No Child's Behind Left" assault on public education?

Then there was that little story meant to show us all he is a Man for All Seasons, above party politics. "I broke with many in my own party," he said, "to vote for a balanced budget, because I thought it was the right thing to do." No, John, it wasn't. It was craven political cowardice, going with the anti-government hysteria that put a knife into the heart of the programs you cried over tonight.

He told us the sad story of the poor homeless guy huddled in front of the White House. Is this the same John Kerry that voted for Clinton's welfare "reform"? That put a five-year limit on food stamps, making child starvation the law of the USA. At least Ronald Reagan offered ketchup as a vegetable.

Kerry made good use of the cash he saved on feeding the poor. "I fought to put a 100,000 cops on the street." Hey, thanks, John.

But my absolute favorite of the night was when Kerry told us, "Saying there are weapons of mass destruction in Iraq doesn't make it so. As President, I will ask hard questions and demand hard evidence."

But, as Senator, you didn't. No questions asked: you just closed your eyes and voted for the lie. I know it, and you sure as hell know it.

And you mentioned a time or two tonight that you served your country. Got yourself a medal for it, too. I'm sorry, but shooting a Vietnamese teenager in the back who was defending his country doesn't make you a hero.

Yesterday, my buddy Michael Moore and I held a press conference in Boston. Some joker of a reporter asked Mr. Fahrenheit about Kerry's gung-ho keep'm-in-Baghdad position. Michael fudged and fidgeted. I felt bad for him as he faked the answer, "President Kerry would not have sent us to war." But as Senator, Kerry did.

I've got an easier job than Michael: as a journalist I don't have to defend any candidate. Nevertheless, I know that my Democratic Party friends will want to ship me to Guantanamo for

asking, "You believe in Kerry, but does he believe in you?"

Remember, comrades, I'm only asking questions, here. I'm sorry if the answers make you uncomfortable about your favorite rich guy.

I know what you're going to say. "Isn't Bush worse?"

By a long shot. Asking if Kerry is as bad as Bush is like asking if a slap in the face is as painful as a brick to the skull.

But don't you get tired of being slapped around by privileged politicos on hypocrisy hyper-drive — then having to applaud? It can't be pleasant, no matter how many pretty balloons they drop on your head.

Greg Palast is the author of the New York Times bestseller, 'The Best Democracy Money Can Buy' and 'Joker's Wild: George Bush's House of Cards' regime change deck.

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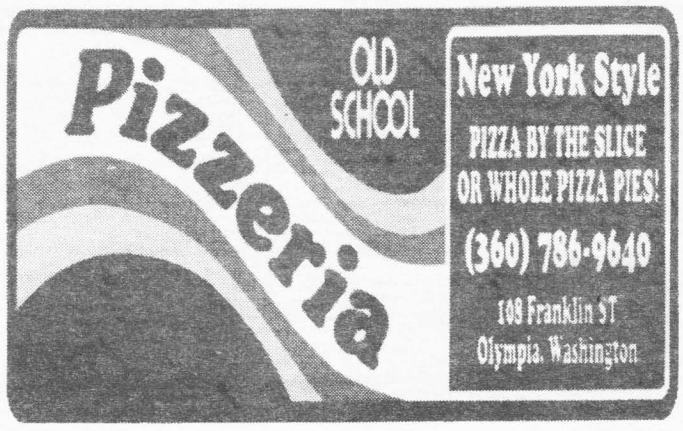

(Farms Bank, cont.from page 1)

Between July 2001 and 2002, 1.2 million people in Washington required food assistance. This means that one in eight households in Washington is hungry or on the risk of being hungry. To make matters worse, the traditional places that offer cheap food to low-income people have done so at an extremely high cost to the surrounding environment and small family farms. The average distance that food travels between the harvest field and the dining room where it is eaten is 1,500 miles. In the terms of calories, that is eight calories of energy to produce and deliver every one calorie of food. Several foods, such as leafy vegetables, lose as much as 50% of their nutrients in between the time it is picked to the time that it is eaten. However, the cost and nutrition problems with shipping in food from outside of the region is only part of the story. Ensuring that food is organic is a major factor in determining health- and health concerns are especially important for low-income people. For example, The California Department of Food and Agriculture discovered perchlorates, toxins from rocket fuel manufacturing plants, in 31 out of 32 sampling of milk that was being sold to the public. In Washington, the discover of "mad cow disease," a disease which is caused by cows digesting certain chemicals from eating other cows who have been exposed. This phenomenon has shown to produce major adverse effects in humans- including death, has sparked a huge cry in the health, farm, and environmental communities. More and more people are realizing that health, environment, and economy are issues that are extremely intertwined, and feeding low-income people in a sustainable way has proven to be an extremely complex task.

Normally, county food banks take up the responsibility in ensuring that low-income people are feed and healthy, but there are problems with the current system. "The surrounding food banks get very little organic food," said Hopkins. "Olympia is one of the better food banks... but the director has told me that doesn't think their is a need for what (we) are doing. People leave (the Thurston County Food Bank) with plenty of food." Hopkins doubts this evaluation of the problem and believes the need to be much greater than most realize. Currently, low-income people get to visit the Thurston County Food Bank only twelve times out of the year and choices are often limited in the terms of pesticide-free and non-GMOs foods.

That is where the Farm Bank Project is trying to step in. It differs from regularly food banks by trying to be more active in the community, stocking local and organic foods, avoiding restrictions, and making an effort to educate people on the value of supporting family farms and organic agriculture. However, the niche that the Farm Bank is filling is still a small one. This year they gave away 632 pounds of food and hundreds of pounds of bread from local bakeries- an important achievement but still a far cry from what other food banks do, and even father from meeting the hunger need in the area. In addition, they have already used up the $3,500 raised on paying canvassers and supplies.

Regardless of the barriers, the Farm Bank Project is continuing to truck ahead and is envisioning more ways that people and farms can be connected. In the near future, the project plans on working with many other groups including the Welfare Rights Organizing Coalition, GRUB, and the Community Action Council. There has also been talk to try to connect local restaurants with local family farms so that they can serve the food that is grown in their own communities. Also, the Farm Bank Project is looking to expand its current food programs and organize low-income CSAs. Many of these task are going to require a lot of work, internal organization, and volunteers- including a board of directors, gardeners, and especially grant writers. Hopkins is hopeful that he and others can do it. According to him, once people realize the benefits in locally grown organic food, they won't want to go back to corporate agriculture. "I am addicted to feeling healthy and good," he said "if you can get others addicted to healthy foods, then that's a good thing."

If you are interested in donating or volunteering for the Farm Bank Project please contact: Mitch Hopkin 328 Decatur NW 98502 (360) 705-2509
farmbankproject@yahoo.com

Farm Bank Project need gardeners

If interested, please show up at:

Eastside Garden
(corner of Tullis and Yew Street)
Mondays from 4:00pm to 8:00pm

Evergreen Community Gardens
Mondays from 12:00pm to 2:00pm

Winlock Meadows Farm
Fridays
(contact Farm Bank Project time)

The Farm Bank Project opens its organic food bank Sunday from 2:00pm to 4:00pm in the Olympia Free School at 808 Jefferson Street Olympia, WA

The Farm Bank Project is having an organization meeting Wednesday August 4th at 6:30pm in the Olympia Free School at 808 Jefferson Street Olympia, WA

(Anybody, cont. from page 10)

be solved with more foreign invaders, with France and Germany given a greater "voice" and a bigger share of the spoils of war. No mention is made of Iraqis, and their right to a "meaningful voice" in the running of their own country, let alone of their right to control their oil or to get a piece of the reconstruction.

Under a Kerry government, the comforting illusion of a world united against imperial aggression will drop away, exposing the jockeying for power that is the true face of modern empire. We'll also have to let go of the archaic idea that toppling a single man, or a Romanesque "empire", will solve all, or indeed any, of our problems. Yes, it will make for more complicated politics, but it has the added benefit of being true. With Bush out of the picture, we lose the galvanizing enemy, but we get to take on the actual policies that are transforming all of our countries.

The other day, I was ranting to a friend about Kerry's vicious support for the apartheid wall in Israel, his gratuitous attacks on Hugo Chavez in Venezuela and his abysmal record on free trade. "Yeah," he agreed sadly. "But at least he believes in evolution." So do I - the much-needed evolution of our progressive movements. And that won't happen until we put away the fridge magnets and Bush gags and get serious. And that will only happen once we get rid of the distraction-in-chief. So Anybody But Bush. And then let's get back to work.

· Naomi Klein is the author of No Logo and Fences and Windows. This column originally appeared in The Nation. © Guardian Newspapers Limited 2004

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Palestine is Still the Issue

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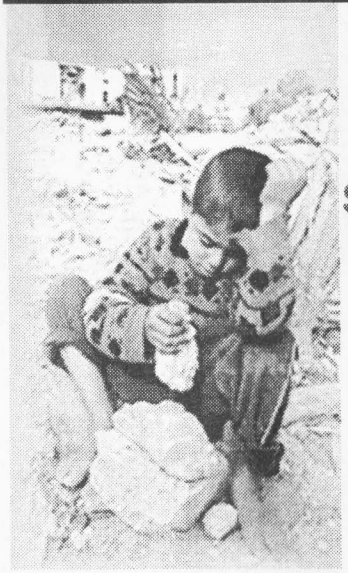

August 25, 2004
7:00-9:00 pm

St. John's Episcopal Church
114 20th Ave. SE, Olympia

Historical perspective by **Steve Niva,**
Prof. of Middle East Studies, TESC

JOIN US AFTERWARD FOR Q & A

Local organizations will be there:

Episcopal Peace Fellowship
Rachel Corrie Foundation for Peace and Justice
Olympia Fellowship of Reconciliation
Olympia-Rafah Sister City Project
Veterans For Peace

Advisory: The film contains limited scenes of violence.
Parental discretion is advised.
Childcare will be provided.

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